



Baldwin County Emergency Management Agency

Baldwin County Commission

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BALDWIN COUNTY MEDIA ALERT #1

BALDWIN COUNTY, AL, (Aug. 28, 2021) – Baldwin County Emergency Management Agency (BCEMA) asks for the media's help in sharing the following information:

Key points from latest weather update for residents and visitors (*National Weather Service deck is attached*):

- Hurricane Ida is beginning to rapidly strengthen and intensify and is still projected to make landfall in Louisiana on Sunday as a major Category 3 or 4 hurricane. **Baldwin County is currently under a Tropical Storm Warning, Storm Surge Warning and Flash Flood Watch.**
- The Baldwin County Commission declared a State of Local Emergency on Aug. 27 and Governor Kay Ivey has declared a State of Emergency for Alabama's coastal and western counties, effective 2:00 p.m. today.
 - “As Hurricane Ida's trek continues in the direction of Louisiana, we still expect the possibility of flooding and even spin-off tornadoes in portions of Alabama. With a storm like this, we always want to hope for the best, but prepare for the worst, which is why I have preemptively declared a state of emergency for our coastal and western counties. We will continue keeping an eye on the evolving system. I urge Alabamians and our visitors to stay weather aware.” – ***Governor Kay Ivey***
- Baldwin County will see Tropical Storm force winds and heavy rain (6-8 inches, possibly more). Impacts along the coast in Gulf Shores, Orange Beach, and Fort Morgan, include storm surge (2-4 feet, possibly higher), high surf (8-12 feet), heavy rain, and deadly rip currents through Tuesday. High surf and deadly rip currents could last well into next week.

- The increasing possibility of river flooding, flooding in low lying areas, and isolated tornadoes is also a concern.
- **At this time, our beaches are under double red flags, which means the waters are closed and people should stay out of the Gulf.**
- Residents and visitors are strongly advised to pay attention to flags posted at all beach entry points. Weather systems can bring strong surf conditions as well as dangerous lightning.
 - While the surf that comes with weather events may look “fun,” this surf is very dangerous with life-threatening rip currents.
 - **High surf is already impacting the beaches with anticipated surf heights of 8-12 feet.**
 - **Red flags mean dangerous rip currents are present; double red flags signify the waters are closed, though the beaches may still be open.**
 - **For your own safety and the safety of others, stay out of the water if we are under red flag conditions.**
 - Watch for lightning in the area and move indoors for safety.
 - Please refer to <https://www.gulfshores.com/beach-water-activities/beaches/beach-flag-warning-system/> for the full beach flag chart.
 - **To receive daily Beach Flag and Surf Conditions on your phone, text “ALBeaches” to 888-777**
- As a precaution, local officials encourage residents and visitors to prepare for Tropical Storm Force Winds of 40-50 mph (could see gusts of up to 50 mph or higher) along the Alabama Gulf Coast.
 - **Pick Up Yard Debris** – All yard debris should be picked up in advance of a storm, including cleaning draining ditches. Do not place any debris by roadways.
 - **Secure Outdoor Furniture** – All patio and outdoor furniture should be secured or brought indoors in advance of a storm.
 - **Fuel Up** – Go ahead and fuel all vehicles and generators in the event that fuel is not available after the storm.
 - **Gather Information** – Keep a list of local emergency contact information such as police and fire non-emergency numbers, hospitals and pharmacies, utility companies, etc.
 - **Plan and Take Action** – Be sure to have a safety plan in place for you and your family. This includes planning for essential medications and a list of medical conditions, contact information, non-perishable food, water and pets.
 - **Severe Storm Preparedness Checklist Including:**
 - An emergency food and water supply (non-perishable food items and one gallon of water per person, per day for at least four days).
 - An emergency medicine supply.
 - Emergency power sources such as flashlights (don’t forget extra batteries)
 - A change of clothing, rain gear and sturdy, closed-toe shoes.
 - Safety and personal items, especially for infants, elderly or the disabled.
 - Blankets or sleeping bags.

- Important documents, including medical documents, wills, passports, and personal identification.
 - A fire extinguisher.
 - **Turn around, don't drown** – In the event of a roadway covered by water, do not attempt to drive over the flooded road. The water depth may be misleading, and you could end up stranded or trapped.
 - **Know Your Elevation** – You must know your elevation to understand if your location will be impacted by storm surge. Find your elevation online at <https://viewer.nationalmap.gov/advanced-viewer/>.
 - **Evacuate When Necessary** – If an evacuation notice is issued, leave. Research possible evacuation routes and make arrangements prior to the storm, so you have somewhere to go.
 - **“The First 72 Are On You”** - Shelters are not available during the first 72 hours after a storm passes, and residents should plan accordingly. Prepare by creating disaster kits that contain enough food, water, and essential supplies that will last seven days after the storm arrives. Individuals should consider having at least two emergency supply kits, one full kit at home and smaller portable kits in their workplace, vehicle, or other places they spend time.
- Since weather forecasts can change from day to day, for the most current and accurate weather information, we encourage residents and visitors to check the National Weather Service in Mobile at <http://www.weather.gov/mob/> or local news outlets in Mobile or Pensacola.

Closures

- **Baldwin County**
 - Baldwin County facilities will be closed on Monday, Aug. 30. This includes all courts, driver's license services, tags, and all other services within Baldwin County Courthouses.
 - Baldwin County Schools will be closed Monday, Aug. 30.
 - Garbage collection routes will be pushed back one day from the scheduled pick-up days. Bulk and yard debris will also be pushed back one day from the scheduled pick-up day.
- **City of Orange Beach**
 - Orange Beach Aquatics Center, Golf Center and Recreation Center will be closed on Sunday, Aug. 29

Resources to stay informed:

- How to prepare for a storm, local evacuation routes, and more - <https://www.baldwincountyal.gov/departments/emergency-management-agency/ema-downloads>
- To receive timely weather updates on your cell phone from the Baldwin County Emergency Management Agency, please register at <https://www.alertbaldwin.com/> .
- Download the Baldwin County EMA app for [Android Smartphone](#) or [Apple iPhone](#).

- <https://algotraffic.com/> is the best resource for up-to-date information on road closures and transportation routes.

Sand/Sandbag Locations

- Gulf Shores – Gulf Shores SportsPlex at 19025 Oak Road West (County Road 6). Sand is available; residents must bring their own sandbags and shovel.
- Orange Beach – Behind City Hall at 4099 Orange Beach Blvd. Sand and sandbags are available; residents must bring their own shovel.
- Robertsedale – Baldwin County Central Annex at 22251 Palmer St. Sand and sandbags are available; residents must bring their own shovel.

Shelters

No shelters are planned to open at this time. If this changes, we will alert media outlets immediately.

Visitors

- For questions regarding cancellations for your vacation rental, please contact the rental company or owner directly because policies vary from company to company.

General Storm Preparedness Information to share:

Food Safety

- Power outages associated with hurricane storm force winds can cause concerns about the safety of frozen and refrigerated foods. As a general rule, a full upright or chest freezer will keep foods frozen for about two days without power.
- A partially full freezer will keep foods frozen for about one day. This time may be extended by keeping the door shut. A refrigerator will keep foods cool for four to six hours if the door is kept closed as much as possible.
- Any thawed foods that have been at room temperature for more than two hours should be discarded. Foods still containing ice crystals can be refrozen, although the quality of the food may decrease. Foods that have thawed to refrigerator temperatures (that is, no more than 40 degrees Fahrenheit) can also be cooked and then refrozen.
- Additional resources (including infographics ... USDA Food Safety infographic is attached to this alert):
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/keep-food-safe-after-emergency.html>
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/food-safety-during-a-power-outage.html>
 - <https://www.fda.gov/food/buy-store-serve-safe-food/food-and-water-safety-during-power-outages-and-floods>
 - <https://www.fda.gov/media/72124/download>

Generator Safety

- While the use of a generator can help you get on the road to recovery, it can also pose danger to your health and safety if not used correctly – especially carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning from the toxic engine exhaust, electric shock or electrocution, and fire.

- Generators should not be operated indoors, should be set at least 20 feet from any structure, and should not be used in rain or wet conditions. (See attached info sheet and infographic for more detailed guidance on how to safely operate a generator).

For more information, contact Jenni Guerry or Sherry-Lea Botop, Baldwin County Emergency Management Agency at jguerry@baldwincountyal.gov or (251) 972-6807.

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STATE OF ALABAMA)
COUNTY OF BALDWIN)

DECLARATION OF A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

DECLARING A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY IN REGARD TO IMPENDING INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS (HURRICANE IDA) WHICH POSE A HAZARD TO THE SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

WHEREAS, on this date, impending inclement weather conditions present a probability of a public calamity and extreme peril to the safety of persons and property in Baldwin County, Alabama, and, furthermore, said impending inclement weather conditions threaten the economic functions of Baldwin County, Alabama; now therefore

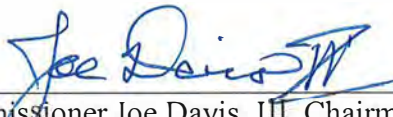
IT IS DECLARED, that a state of local emergency is hereby proclaimed for Baldwin County, Alabama, in regard to impending inclement weather, commencement of said declaration being contingent upon and coinciding with a Declaration of a State of Emergency by the Governor of the State of Alabama.

FURTHER, IT IS DECLARED, that during the aforesaid period the state of local emergency exists, the County Commission of Baldwin County, Alabama, shall exercise all authority, powers and privileges, as prescribed by applicable Federal law and/or Alabama law and/or Local law and/or policies of this county governing body.

FURTHER, IT IS ORDERED, that this instrument, entitled "Declaration of a State of Local Emergency," shall become effective and commence contingent upon and coinciding with a Declaration of a State of Emergency by the Governor of the State of Alabama.

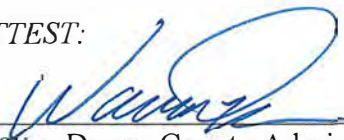
FURTHER, IT IS ORDERED, that this instrument, entitled "Declaration of a State of Local Emergency," shall expire upon adoption of another instrument, by this county governing body, declaring said state of local emergency no longer threatens Baldwin County, Alabama.

IT IS DONE, under the Seal of the County Commission of Baldwin County, Alabama, on this the 27th day of August, 2021.



Commissioner Joe Davis, III, Chairman
Baldwin County Commission

ATTEST:

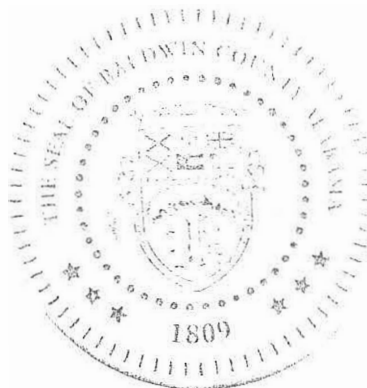


Wayne Dyess, County Administrator
Baldwin County Commission

AS ADVISED BY:



Zachary Hood, Director
Baldwin County Emergency Management Agency





STATE OF ALABAMA
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS the Alabama Emergency Management Act of 1955, as amended, confers upon the Governor the power to proclaim a state of emergency when a natural disaster of major proportions has occurred or is reasonably anticipated in the immediate future, *see* Ala. Code § 31-9-8;

WHEREAS the National Weather Service has forecast a severe weather event for the State of Alabama with significant potential for strong winds, flooding, and tornadoes due to Hurricane Ida;

WHEREAS this severe weather event is expected to cause significant damage to public and private property and seriously disrupt essential utility services and systems; and

WHEREAS this severe weather event poses extraordinary conditions of disaster and of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the State, and it is anticipated that these conditions, by reason of their magnitude, are, or are likely to be, beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single county, city and county, or city, and will require combined forces to combat, *see* Ala. Code § 31-9-3;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of the State of Alabama, pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Alabama Emergency Management Act of 1955, as amended, Ala. Code §§ 31-9-1 *et seq.*, do hereby proclaim that a state of emergency exists for the coastal and western counties of the State effective at 2:00 p.m. CDT on Saturday, August 28, 2021. For purposes of this proclamation "coastal and western counties" means Baldwin, Bibb, Choctaw, Clarke, Colbert, Conecuh, Dallas, Escambia, Fayette, Franklin, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Marengo, Marion, Mobile, Monroe, Perry, Pickens, Sumter, Tuscaloosa, Walker, Washington, Wilcox, and Winston Counties. I direct the activation of the Alabama Emergency Operations Plan and all appropriate annexes for purposes of the State's response to this severe weather event. The Alabama Emergency Management Agency State Emergency Operations Center shall be activated for purposes of responding to this incident, as shall be all affected or potentially affected Alabama Emergency Management Divisions.

FURTHER, I hereby proclaim and direct all of the following:

I. Activation of the Alabama National Guard and other state agencies

I hereby direct the Alabama National Guard to prepare to be activated on order of the Governor to respond to this severe weather event, and I direct the appropriate state agencies to exercise their statutory and regulatory authority to assist the affected communities and entities in responding to and recovering from this event. I also direct the Alabama Emergency Management Agency to make the appropriate assessment of damages from this event and seek the necessary state and federal assistance for the affected areas.

II. Price gouging

In accordance with sections 8-31-1 through 8-31-6 of the Code of Alabama, all persons are hereby placed on notice that it is unlawful for any person within the State of Alabama to impose unconscionable prices (i.e., to engage in "price gouging") for the sale or rental of any commodity or rental facility during the period of a declared state of emergency.

III. Waiver of federal motor-carrier regulations

Pursuant to 49 CFR § 390.23, this declaration of a state of emergency facilitates a waiver of certain regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation-Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), including 49 C.F.R. Part 395 (Hours of Service for Drivers), as it relates to the provision of emergency-or disaster-related materials, supplies, goods, and services for this severe weather event. The waiver for this event shall terminate at the earliest of (1) the conclusion of the motor carrier's or driver's direct assistance in providing emergency relief; (2) 30 days from the initial declaration of emergency; (3) the issuance of a proclamation terminating this state of emergency; or (4) any other time dictated by the FMCSA's regulations. Motor carriers that have an out-of-service order in effect may not take advantage of the relief from regulation that this declaration provides under 49 C.F.R. § 390.23.

IV. Transportation of emergency equipment, supplies, etc.

I instruct the appropriate agencies to take necessary steps and issue the appropriate documents to expedite the movement of vehicles, or vehicles and loads, that are transporting emergency equipment, services and supplies, storm-related debris, building and construction materials, or temporary emergency buildings and their components, subject to the following rules:

- A. The documents shall be subject to approval and clearance by the Alabama Department of Transportation and the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency and shall cover specific designated state routes.
- B. The director of the Alabama Department of Transportation, or his designee, may issue waivers for vehicles or combinations of vehicles and loads, whether those loads are divisible or non-divisible, with weights, dimensions, or combinations thereof exceeding the maximum limits specified by law.
- C. Transporters are responsible to ensure that they have proper oversize signs, markings, flags, and escorts as defined in the State of Alabama's rules and regulations.
- D. Insurance requirements shall not be waived.
- E. Nothing in this proclamation shall be construed to allow any vehicle to exceed the weight limits posted for bridges and like structures, nor shall anything in this proclamation be construed to relieve any vehicle, or the carrier, owner, or driver of any vehicle from compliance with any restrictions other than those specified in this proclamation, or from any statute, rule, order, or other legal requirement not specifically waived herein.

V. State government office closings

State government offices may be closed at the direction of the Governor. State agency heads will receive instructions from the Governor's Office or the State Personnel Director if closures are authorized.

VI. Actual expense reimbursement

I find that it is fair, reasonable, and appropriate that those State of Alabama employees who are required to perform disaster recovery and response services away from their home base of operations for this event be reimbursed for the actual expenses they incur while performing these services on behalf of the State of Alabama. Therefore, I authorize the reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses, as prescribed by the Fiscal Policies and Procedures Manual, for state employees who have been, are being, or may be called away from their home base in response to this state of emergency. All such claims for expense reimbursement must be reasonable and must be certified as such by the employee's agency head or appointing authority.

VII. Applicability of COVID-19 Orders

Because this severe weather event has occurred during the State's response to the COVID-19-related public health emergency, I find that it would further promote the safety and protection of the people of Alabama to clarify the applicability of any remaining state or local order, ordinance, rule, or other provision adopted or issued to mitigate the threat of COVID-19 (hereinafter "COVID-19 Order"). To that end:

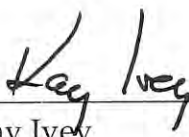
- A. Any COVID-19 Order is suspended to the extent that its application or enforcement would endanger any person affected by this severe weather event or impede the ability of any individuals, governmental entities, organizations, or businesses responding to this severe weather event to preserve human life, to prevent or mitigate human suffering, or to protect or repair critical infrastructure as defined by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency.
- B. Except as provided in this section, nothing in this proclamation shall otherwise be construed to modify, alter, or amend any COVID-19 Order, which shall remain in full force and effect according to its terms, including the terms related to its expiration.

FURTHER, to the extent a provision in this proclamation conflicts with any provision of state law, that law is hereby suspended for the duration of this state of emergency, and this proclamation shall control.

FURTHER, I declare that this proclamation, and all subsequent orders, laws, rules, or regulations issued pursuant hereto, shall remain in full force and effect for the duration of this state of emergency, unless rescinded or extended by proclamation.

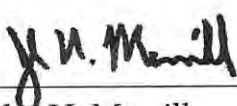


IN WITNESS, WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal to be affixed by the Secretary of State at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on this the 28th day of August 2021.



Kay Ivey
Governor

ATTEST:



John H. Merrill
Secretary of State

BEFORE PLAN AHEAD (IF YOU CAN) ...

Freeze **containers of water and gel packs** to help keep food cold if the power goes out.

Keep **freezer 0°F or below**

Refrigerator **40°F or below**

Put **appliance thermometers** in your refrigerator and freezer.

Freeze refrigerated items such as leftovers, milk, and fresh meat and poultry that you do not need immediately.

Group foods together in the freezer to help food stay colder longer.

If you think power will be out for more than 4 hours, consider moving food to a cooler with ice. If available, buy dry or block ice to keep the refrigerator or freezer cold.

Store non-perishable foods on higher shelves to avoid flood water.

DURING WHILE THE POWER IS OUT ...

Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed to **maintain cold temperature.**

CLOSED

IF DOORS STAY CLOSED ...

... a full freezer will hold its temperature for

48 HOURS

24 HOURS if half-full

... a fridge will keep food safe for

4 HOURS

Place perishable foods in a cooler with ice before food starts to go bad

AFTER ONCE THE POWER IS BACK ON ...

Check the temperature inside your refrigerator and freezer. If they're still at safe temperatures, your food should be fine. Discard perishable foods that have been at an unsafe temperature.

Never taste food to **determine its safety!**

WHAT CAN I KEEP?



Hard cheeses (Cheddar, Colby, Swiss, Parmesan, Provolone, Romano)



Grated Parmesan, Romano, or combination (in can or jar)



Butter or margarine



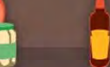
Opened fruit juices



Opened canned fruits



Jelly, relish, taco sauce, mustard, ketchup, olives, pickles



Worcestershire, soy, barbecue, and Hoisin sauces



Peanut butter



Opened vinegar-based dressings



Bread, rolls, cakes, muffins, quick breads, tortillas



Breakfast foods (waffles, pancakes, bagels)



Fruit pies



Fresh mushrooms, herbs, and spices



Uncut raw vegetables and fruit

WHAT SHOULD I THROW OUT?



Raw meat, poultry or seafood products



Soft cheeses and shredded cheeses



Milk, cream, yogurt, and other dairy products



Opened baby formula



Eggs and egg products



Dough, cooked pasta



Leftovers



Cooked or cut produce

WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!

FOLLOW THESE STEPS AFTER A FLOOD:



DO NOT EAT any food that may have touched flood water.



DISCARD FOOD not in waterproof containers; screw-caps, snap lids, pull tops, and crimped tops are not waterproof.



DISCARD cardboard juice/milk/baby formula boxes and home canned foods.



DISCARD any damaged cans that have swelling, leakage, punctures, holes, fractures, extensive deep rusting, or crushing/denting severe enough to prevent normal stacking or opening.

SANITIZE

1 tbsp. bleach + 1 gallon water

Pots, pans, dishes and utensils

Undamaged all-metal cans after removing labels

AFTER A FLOOD

Using Portable Generators Safely

Portable generators are internal combustion engines used to generate electricity. They are useful when temporary or remote power is needed, and are commonly used during cleanup and recovery efforts following disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, etc. This fact sheet discusses specific hazards inherent with the use of generators and also provides helpful information to ensure that workers and others using such equipment remain safe.

Hazards Associated with Generators

- Shocks and electrocution from improper use of power or accidentally energizing other electrical systems.
- Carbon monoxide from a generator's exhaust.
- Fires from improperly refueling a generator or inappropriately storing the fuel for a generator.
- Noise and vibration hazards.

Shock and Electrocution

The electricity created by generators has the same hazards as normal utility-supplied electricity. It also has some additional hazards because generator users often bypass the safety devices (such as circuit breakers) that are built into electrical systems. The following precautions are provided to reduce shock and electrocution hazards:

- Never attach a generator directly to the electrical system of a structure (home, office, trailer, etc.) unless a qualified electrician has properly installed the generator with a transfer switch. Attaching a generator directly to a building electrical system without a properly installed transfer switch can energize wiring systems for great distances. This creates a risk of electrocution for utility workers and others in the area.
- Always plug electrical appliances directly into the generator using the manufacturer's supplied cords or extension cords that are grounded (3-pronged). Inspect the cords to make sure they are fully intact and not damaged, cut or abraded. Never use frayed or damaged extension cords. Ensure the cords are appropriately rated in watts or amps for the intended use. Do not use underrated

cords—replace them with appropriately rated cords that use heavier gauge wires.

Do not overload a generator; this can lead to overheating which can create a fire hazard.

- Use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), especially where electrical equipment is used in or around wet or damp locations. GFCIs shut off power when an electrical current is detected outside normal paths. GFCIs and extension cords with built-in GFCI protection can be purchased at hardware stores, do-it-yourself centers, and other locations that sell electrical equipment. Regardless of GFCI use, electrical equipment used in wet and damp locations must be listed and approved for those conditions.
- Make sure a generator is properly grounded and the grounding connections are tight. Consult the manufacturer's instructions for proper grounding methods.
- Keep a generator dry; do not use it in the rain or wet conditions. If needed, protect a generator with a canopy. Never manipulate a generator's electrical components if you are wet or standing in water.
- Do not use electrical equipment that has been submerged in water. Equipment must be thoroughly dried out and properly evaluated before using. Power off and do not use any electrical equipment that has strange odors or begins smoking.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, toxic gas. Many people have died from CO poisoning because their generator was not adequately ventilated.

- Never use a generator indoors or in enclosed spaces such as garages, crawl spaces, and basements. NOTE: Open windows and doors may NOT prevent CO from building up when a generator is located in an enclosed space.
- Make sure a generator has 3 to 4 feet of clear space on all sides and above it to ensure adequate ventilation.
- Do not use a generator outdoors if its placement near doors, windows, and vents could allow CO to enter and build up in occupied spaces.
- If you or others show symptoms of CO poisoning—dizziness, headaches, nausea, tiredness—get to fresh air immediately and seek medical attention. Do not re-enter the area until it is determined to be safe by trained and properly equipped personnel.

Fire Hazards

- Generators become hot while running and remain hot for long periods after they are stopped. Generator fuels (gasoline, kerosene, etc.) can ignite when spilled on hot engine parts.
- Before refueling, shut down the generator and allow it to cool.
- Gasoline and other generator fuels should be stored and transported in approved containers that are properly designed and marked for their contents, and vented.
- Keep fuel containers away from flame producing and heat generating devices (such as the generator itself, water heaters, cigarettes, lighters, and matches). Do not smoke around fuel containers. Escaping vapors or vapors from spilled materials can travel long distances to ignition sources.
- Do not store generator fuels in your home. Store fuels away from living areas.

Noise and Vibration Hazards

- Generator engines vibrate and create noise. Excessive noise and vibration could cause hearing loss and fatigue that may affect job performance.

- Keep portable generators as far away as possible from work areas and gathering spaces.
- Wear hearing protection if this is not possible.

Workers' Rights

Workers have the right to:

- Working conditions that do not pose a risk of serious harm.
- Receive information and training (in a language and vocabulary the worker understands) about workplace hazards, methods to prevent them, and the OSHA standards that apply to their workplace.
- Review records of work-related injuries and illnesses.
- File a complaint asking OSHA to inspect their workplace if they believe there is a serious hazard or that their employer is not following OSHA's rules. OSHA will keep all identities confidential.
- Exercise their rights under the law without retaliation, including reporting an injury or raising health and safety concerns with their employer or OSHA. If a worker has been retaliated against for using their rights, they must file a complaint with OSHA as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days.

For additional information, see [OSHA's Workers page \(www.osha.gov/workers\)](http://www.osha.gov/workers).

How to Contact OSHA

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to help ensure these conditions for America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education, and assistance. For more information, visit www.osha.gov or call OSHA at 1-800-321-OSHA (6742), TTY 1-877-889-5627.

This is one in a series of informational fact sheets highlighting OSHA programs, policies or standards. It does not impose any new compliance requirements. For a comprehensive list of compliance requirements of OSHA standards or regulations, refer to Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations. This information will be made available to sensory-impaired individuals upon request. The voice phone is (202) 693-1999; teletypewriter (TTY) number: (877) 889-5627.



**Occupational
Safety and Health
Administration**